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Letter dated 31 January 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to your report concerning the situation in the Central African Republic (S/2003/5) which clearly indicates the importance placed on the establishment of security and stability in that State and in other States of southern Africa that are beset by war and destruction.

Although the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya appreciates the report, it regrets that it makes no reference to the efforts that have been made since 1996 by the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) to maintain peace and security in the Central African Republic or to the fact that the Community deployed peacekeeping forces in accordance with the resolutions of the emergency mini-summit of the Community held in Khartoum on 3 December 2001 which had a positive impact on the stability of those countries and resulted in the transferral of that function to the joint peacekeeping forces of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) on 19 December 2002.

The annex to this letter contains information concerning the efforts of CEN-SAD relating to the Central African Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmed A. **Own**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 31 January 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Efforts of the African Union and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States to resolve the crisis in the Central African Republic

Political developments have taken place in the Central African Republic since 1996; following the attempted coups d'état of 28 May 2001 and 3 November 2001, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) has endeavoured to restore peace and stability to the Central African Republic. A review of those efforts is set out below.

At its 74th ordinary session held in Lusaka from 6 to 8 July 2001, the OAU Council of Ministers condemned the attempted coup d'état of 28 June 2001 and commended CEN-SAD on its efforts to support the constitutional institutions, to end the fighting and to ensure security in the Central African Republic.

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in Africa, at its 78th ordinary session at ambassador level, meeting in Addis Ababa on 27 November 2001, studied the situation in the Central African Republic, called on the leaders of the Organization to continue their efforts to assist the parties in the Central African Republic to overcome their differences through dialogue and requested the Secretary-General to monitor the situation and to take appropriate steps to achieve that objective.

The emergency mini-summit met in Khartoum on 3 December 2001, attended by President Frederick Chiluba, current Chairman of OAU, President Idriss Deby, President Ange-Félix Patassé and Major-General Abu Bakr Yunus. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of CEN-SAD also took part in the mini-summit. The mini-summit decided to establish a force to keep the peace in Central Africa under the auspices of President Omer Ahmed Al-Bashir, current Chairman of CEN-SAD, and of Colonel Muammar Qaddafi in his capacity as a sponsor of the peace process within the Community. It also decided to establish a political committee of the ministers for foreign affairs of the Sudan, Chad, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Burkina Faso and Gabon, the Secretary-General of OAU, the Secretary-General of CEN-SAD and a representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution convened an emergency session at ministerial level in Tripoli on 26 January 2002 to discuss the situation in the Central African Republic. A representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of CEN-SAD took part in the meetings at that session. The Central Organ endorsed the decision of the Khartoum summit to deploy peacekeeping forces in the Central African Republic in compliance with the decisions of OAU concerning the non-recognition of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa, commended the efforts of the African States to restore constitutional order and support the legitimate Government of the Central African Republic and its institutions, at the Government's request, and called on other African States to provide similar support to the legitimate Government of the Central African Republic.

A meeting held in Bangui on 19 December 2002 attended by President Patassé, the Secretary of the People's General Committee for African Unity, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of CEN-SAD, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon, the Commander of the CEN-SAD forces, and the Commander of the forces of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) to discuss the necessary measures and preparations for completing the withdrawal and ensuring the security of the situation, by agreement with the representative of CEMAC and the CEMAC forces. It was agreed during this meeting to withdraw the CEN-SAD forces.

The Secretary of the People's General Committee for African Unity and President of the Executive Council of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States sent a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations dated 2 January 2003 concerning the withdrawal of the CEN-SAD forces from the Central African Republic and the transferral of their functions to the CEMAC forces in accordance with the agreement signed between the interested parties.